

PATRICK D. ROBBINS (CABN 152288)
Acting United States Attorney

MARTHA BOERSCH (CABN 126569)
Chief, Criminal Division

CHRISTIAAN HIGHSMITH (CABN 296282)
DAVID WARD (CABN 239504)
Assistant United States Attorneys

MATTHEW CHOU (CABN 325199)
Special Assistant United States Attorney

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36055
San Francisco, California 94102-3495
Telephone: (415) 436-7200
christiaan.hightsmith@usdoj.gov
david.ward@usdoj.gov
matthew.chou2@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for United States of America

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,
v.
ROWLAND MARCUS ANDRADE,
Defendant.

) CASE NO. 3:20-cr-00249-RS
)
) **UNITED STATES' MOTION IN LIMINE TO**
) **EXCLUDE MOST HEARSAY OFFERED BY**
) **THE DEFENDANT**
)
) Jury Trial: 8:30 a.m. thru ~Mar. 10, 2025
) Court: Courtroom 3 | 17th Floor
) Judge: Hon. Richard Seeborg
)
)

The Court ordered the parties to concisely and simultaneously brief, by Monday at 8:30am, whether the defense can introduce evidence of hearsay statements made directly to the defendant even if neither he nor statement's proponent takes the stand. *See* Tr. 1471:15–73:4 (Feb. 20, 2025 trial day); Tr. 1630:1–9 (Feb. 21, 2025). The answer is yes if he first clears at least five evidentiary hurdles. If Andrade does so, he may offer—with a limiting instruction—an out-of-court statement he received if it arguably “provided a good faith basis for [his] actions.” *United States v. Certified Env’t Servs., Inc.*, 753 F.3d 72, 89 (2d Cir. 2014) (holding that trial court erred when it excluded an email from government

1 official to defendant that showed the defendant acted in good faith); *see also United States v. Norwood*,
 2 798 F.2d 1094, 1096 (7th Cir. 1986) (holding that percipient witnesses should have been allowed to
 3 testify about what they or others within earshot told defendant).

4 But to admit evidence on this limited basis, Andrade (1) cannot nest hearsay in a way that
 5 requires assuming Andrade truly received something; (2) cannot introduce his own statements; (3) must
 6 prove authenticity; (4) cannot blame victims for negligence or even intentional disregard; and (5) must
 7 pass Rule 403 balancing. The government thus moves in limine to exclude hearsay evidence that cannot
 8 meet all the requirements below:

9 **1. Nested hearsay would improperly require an assumption that Andrade truly**
 10 **heard/received what is on the document or in testimony.** To start, Andrade cannot invoke effect on
 11 the listener if the face of a document fails to prove that he received it. Nor can he offer third-party
 12 testimony about what some out-of-court declarant purportedly told Andrade. In other words, Andrade
 13 cannot offer evidence from someone other than himself that another out-of-court declarant “gave
 14 defendant[] certain advice, and [he] relied on that advice,” because such evidence would necessarily
 15 require assuming the truth of the matter asserted by the original hearsay declarant. *United States v.*
 16 *Bishop*, 291 F.3d 1100, 1110 (9th Cir. 2002).

17 a. For example, Andrade could not introduce out-of-court statements of Jack
 18 Abramoff, Richard Naimer, or any other person writing to someone else to show Andrade’s
 19 state of mind. A writing like “I told Andrade XYZ,” “Andrade believes XYZ,” or “Andrade is so
 20 naïve” is inadmissible.

21 b. Nor could Andrade introduce an email thread that he is not on—but which
 22 *purports* to contain earlier emails/documents sent to him. (Take, for instance, emails forwarded
 23 from David Mata to FBI SSA Kate Ablett that purport to contain/quote emails Andrade received.
 24 *See, e.g.*, Dkt. 580 at 15 (Exhibit 2531); Exhibit 3202 (not on exhibit list).) Again, this content
 25 necessarily requires assuming the truth of the hearsay declarant: that the declarant is in fact
 26 quoting an email thread with Andrade. By contrast, the government often may introduce such
 27 writings against Andrade as an *opposing* party co-conspirator/employee/agency statement by the
 28 declarant. *See* Fed. R. Evid. 801(d)(2).

1 **2. Andrade's own statements are inadmissible.** As the Court has rightly noted and the
 2 government previously briefed in limine, Andrade cannot admit his own self-serving hearsay statements,
 3 whether to show state of mind or something else. *See, e.g., United States v. Sayakhom*, 186 F.3d 928,
 4 937 (9th Cir.), *amended*, 197 F.3d 959 (9th Cir. 1999) (holding inadmissible an audio recording of a
 5 conversation between defendant and investigators, which she had offered to show her good faith state of
 6 mind). This is particularly true as to any statements Andrade may have made after September 13, 2018,
 7 when FBI agents executed a search warrant on the Las Vegas offices of the NAC Foundation and began
 8 interviewing co-conspirators. These overt investigative steps notified Andrade of the criminal
 9 investigation against him. Any statements by Andrade after this date are likely made in preparation for
 10 litigation and are thus inherently untrustworthy. *See United States v. Ortega*, 203 F.3d 675, 682 (9th Cir.
 11 2000) (explaining that the “precisely what the hearsay rule forbids” is the defendant “plac[ing] his
 12 exculpatory statements ‘before the jury without subjecting himself to cross-examination’” (quoting
 13 *United States v. Fernandez*, 839 F.2d 639, 640 (9th Cir. 1988))).

14 **3. Authenticity.** The defense’s proffered evidence must be authentic. This poses a real
 15 hurdle here. Many defense exhibits either (1) were not disclosed or produced until shortly before trial
 16 and were gathered by undisclosed means; or (2) are still to-be-determined or yet-to-be-disclosed, as
 17 noted by the “RESERVED” label for many defense exhibit numbers. *See* Andrade’s 2nd Amended
 18 Exhibit List, Dkt. 580 (Feb. 19, 2025). For example:

19 a. Exhibits lacking a government Bates stamp—such as those bearing the defense
 20 Bates prefix “USKISP”—were likely never obtained/verified by federal investigators.

21 b. The eleventh-hour appearance of certain documents conveniently helpful to the
 22 defendant casts further doubt on their authenticity. Specifically, documents created or dated after
 23 September 13, 2018 are likely self-serving and in preparation for litigation.. More suspect still is
 24 everything that Andrade had failed to produce in response to a June 7, 2019 grand jury subpoena.
 25 The subpoena demanded a comprehensive set of documents,¹ and in response, Andrade produced

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 27 ¹ The grand jury subpoena sought records dated January 1, 2014 onward. The subpoena demanded 16
 28 sets of documents, including “all financial records related to NAC Foundation, NAC Payroll Services,
 Inc., AtenCoin, or AML Bitcoin”; all correspondence related to business arrangements; all records and
 communications regarding negotiations with government entities; and “all records relating to AML
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1 records on March 9, 2020 and April 15, 2020. Now Andrade offers many unproduced documents
 2 as exhibits.

3 c. This is not merely a theoretical concern. It appears the content comprising many if
 4 not most defense exhibits either (1) post-date September 13, 2018, when the investigation
 5 became overt; or (2) should have been produced in response to the June 2019 grand jury
 6 subpoena. To take one example, the “Date” column of the defense exhibit list shows that many
 7 exhibits contain content from after September 13, 2018. *See, e.g.*, Dkt. 580 at 7 (Exhibit 2232)
 8 (Deloitte executed agreement with patent list attached). To take another example, Defense
 9 Exhibit 2544 purports to be Andrade’s “Undated” “Copyrighted Source Code.” Andrade claims
 10 he worked on and received regular updates on this source code, at least as previewed in his
 11 opening statement and cross-examination of government witnesses. But Andrade failed to
 12 produce *any* source code in response to the grand jury subpoena. His first production of
 13 purported source code was on January 22, 2025 as part of Erik Min’s expert disclosures. *See* Dkt.
 14 503 (government’s motion re Min disclosure). Indeed, Andrade’s own three exhibit lists all
 15 candidly concede that Andrade had likely never produced the assertedly “Undated” “Copyrighted
 16 Source Code.” *See, e.g.*, Andrade’s 2nd Amended Exhibit List, Dkt. 580 at 16 (Feb. 19, 2025)
 17 (Exhibit 2544). The defense’s exhibit lists state: “WAS THIS PRODUCED BY MA? CANNOT
 18 FIND IN DISCOVERY.” *Id.*

19 d. In sum, Andrade must support authenticity of documents not produced by the
 20 government through sworn testimony or other procedures set forth in Rules 901 and 902.

21 **4. Controlling precedent categorically excludes all evidence of individual investor**
 22 **negligence, intentional disregard, or lack of reliance.** As the Court rightly held in limine, Andrade
 23 could “not stray into evidence of the behavior of individual [investors],” for there is a “[a] prophylactic
 24 rule against all evidence of individual lender [or investor] behavior.” *United States v. Lindsey*, 850 F.3d
 25 1009, 1012 (9th Cir. 2017) (holding inadmissible victims’ “negligence,” “or even intentional disregard”
 26 of misrepresentations in fraud prosecutions); *see* Dkt. 497 at 2 (holding same). This is a “bright-line

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 28 Bitcoin software development, including . . . any work product, source code, and testing reports.”

1 rule” that does not even permit admission with a limiting instruction. *Id.* at 1017–18.

2 a. A defendant could not offer, for example, evidence that a particular investor
 3 intentionally disregarded a misrepresentation, such as evidence that an investor told the
 4 defendant that a misrepresentation was immaterial to the purchasing decision. *See id.* at 1016.

5 b. Again, defense exhibits, like purchase agreements, appear within this
 6 impermissible genre of victim negligence or disregard. *See, e.g.*, Dkt. 580 at 14 (Exhibits 2471–
 7 2474: lengthy terms and conditions on website that include buried disclaimers of liability, such
 8 as ¶ 15 on Exhibit 2471-004, which states “You have not purchased and have no intention of
 9 purchasing AML BitCoins and/or AML BitCoin Tokens for investment purposes and You [sic]
 10 expect no return on investment.”).

11 5. **Rule 403.** Lastly, even if Andrade’s proffered evidence clears the four hurdles above, the
 12 Court has “great leeway” to exclude evidence under Rule 403. *United States v. Pendleton*, 884 F.2d
 13 1396, at *2 (9th Cir. 1989) (unpublished). And courts regularly exclude evidence that—though probative
 14 of a defendant’s purported good faith—pose a danger of “unfair prejudice, confusing the issues,
 15 misleading the jury, undue delay, wasting time, or needlessly presenting cumulative evidence.” Fed. R.
 16 Evid. 403. “[W]e generally will not disturb such a ruling unless it ‘lies beyond the pale of reasonable
 17 justification under the circumstances.’” *United States v. Espinoza-Baza*, 647 F.3d 1182, 1189 (9th Cir.
 18 2011) (quoting *United States v. Pineda-Doval*, 614 F.3d 1019, 1035 (9th Cir. 2010)) (affirming
 19 exclusion of defendant’s legally relevant evidence).

20 a. As one example, “permitting legal materials into the jury room creates the
 21 potential for undue jury confusion concerning the governing law.” *United States v. Payne*, 978
 22 F.2d 1177, 1182 (10th Cir. 1992) (exclusion, in tax and false statements case, of defendant’s
 23 previously annotated tax records that suggested he had acted in good faith; and collecting cases).
 24 Andrade’s exhibits include legal materials that pose exactly this risk of confusion. *See, e.g.*, Dkt.
 25 580 at 4 (Exhibits 2141, 2124) (emails regarding patents); *id.* at 8 (Exhibits 2273, 2274) (Randy
 26 Wooten memo re Aten Black Gold Coin security status; Fahy Memo saying ABTC not a
 27 security).

28 b. As another example, Rule 403 properly excludes evidence that the defendant

1 hoped or believed that investors would eventually be repaid, or that investors in fact suffered no
2 loss because they were later repaid. *See, e.g., United States v. Sindona*, 636 F.2d 792, 800 (2d
3 Cir. 1980) (exclusion, in a complex fraud case, of evidence that defendant did not intend loss and
4 in fact victim institution was repaid—even though the district court had permitted the defense to
5 promise that evidence in its opening statement and later reversed course). Several defense
6 exhibits appear within this inadmissible genre. *See, e.g.*, Dkt. 580 at 9 (Exhibit 2284: June 2018
7 email from Andrade to Foteh asking her to refund investors connected to Corey Jodoin); *id.* at 25
8 (Exhibit 2873: August 2014 email to Andrade on possible sources of Aten cash flow).

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10 DATED: February 24, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

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12 PATRICK D. ROBBINS
13 Acting United States Attorney

14
15 /s/
16 CHRISTIAAN H. HIGHSMITH
17 DAVID J. WARD
18 Assistant United States Attorneys

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20 MATTHEW CHOU
21 Special Assistant United States Attorney